

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/669,703

Examiner

Thomas A. Morrison

Applicant(s)

YANG ET AL.

Art Unit

3653

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to applicant's amendment dated 10/7/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Michel (Registration No. 46,300) on December 22, 2005.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

The paragraph beginning on page 5, line 20 has been amended as follows:

-- In the transfer unit 160, the transfer roller 163 is installed to be opposite to the transfer belt 162. The transfer roller 163 is separated from the transfer belt 162 by a solenoid (not shown) while the color toner image is transferred to the transfer belt 162. Driving the transfer belt 162 while the transfer belt 162 is separated from the transfer roller 163 is considered to be a no-load operation of the transfer belt 162.

When the color toner image is completely transferred to the transfer belt 162, the transfer roller 163 contacts the transfer belt 162 at a predetermined pressure, so 25 as to transfer the color toner image onto the paper P. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

In claim 6, line 3 after "instructions", "adapted to control" has been deleted.

In claim 6, line 3 before "the", -- for controlling -- has been inserted.

In claim 6, line 6 after "instructions", "adapted to control" has been deleted.

In claim 6, line 6 before "the", -- for controlling -- has been inserted.

In claim 7, line 3 after "instructions", "adapted to control" has been deleted.

In claim 7, line 3 before "to", "the system" has been replaced with -- the image forming system --.

In claim 7, line 3 before "the", -- for controlling -- has been inserted.

In claim 7, line 8 after "instructions", "adapted to control" has been deleted.

In claim 7, line 8 before "the", -- for controlling -- has been inserted.

In claim 7, line 8 before "to", "the system" has been replaced with -- the image forming system --.

In claim 8, line 3 after "unit", "adapted to perform" has been deleted.

In claim 8, line 3 before "a paper", -- for performing -- has been inserted.

In claim 8, line 5 after "sensor", "adapted to sense" has been deleted.

In claim 8, line 5 before "whether", -- for sensing -- has been inserted.

In claim 8, line 7 after "unit", "adapted to perform" has been deleted.

In claim 8, line 7 before "a no-load", -- for performing -- has been inserted.

In claim 8, line 9 before "transfer", "a" has been replaced with -- the --.

In claim 11, line 3, "when the" has been replaced with -- when a --.

In claim 12, line 2 before "a paper", "adapted to perform" has been deleted.

In claim 12, line 2 before "a paper", -- for performing -- has been inserted.

In claim 12, line 3 before "a successful", "adapted to detect" has been deleted.

In claim 12, line 3 after "sensor", -- for detecting -- has been inserted.

In claim 12, line 4 before "a no-load", "adapted to perform" has been deleted.

In claim 12, line 4 after "unit", -- for performing -- has been inserted.

In claim 12, line 5 after "the controller", "is adapted to" has been deleted.

In claim 12, line 6 before "a number of re-attempts", "set" has been replaced with -- sets --.

In claim 12, line 8 before "the pickup unit", "control" has been replaced with -- controls --.

In claim 12, line 12 before "the transfer unit", "control" has been replaced with -- controls --.

In claim 12, line 13, "control" has been replaced with -- controls --.

In claim 12, line 17 before "that", "determine" has been replaced with -- determines --.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

U.S. Patent No. 6,032,944 (Lee) is the closest prior art reference of record.

However, the Lee patent does not disclose or suggest setting a number of no-load operations of a transfer belt, as set forth in independent claims 1, 6, 8 and 12. Also, the Lee patent does not disclose or suggest performing a pickup operation repeatedly in accordance with a set number of re-attempts of pickup of paper and a

number of no-load operations of a transfer belt, as set forth in independent claims 1, 6, 8 and 12.

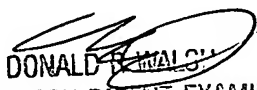
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thomas A. Morrison whose telephone number is (571) 272-7221. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Donald Walsh can be reached on (571) 272-6944. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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